

Ref.: NECI1069 2185 GP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: AKAGUCHI et al.

Date: October 29, 2001

Serial No.: 09/721,694

Group Art Unit: 2185

Filed: November 27, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SURFACE PLASMON-ENHANCED READ/WRITE HEADS FOR OPTICAL DATA STORAGE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTERAssistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed is an "Amendment", together with a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a), in the above-identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required for the Amendment.
- ☒ The fee has been calculated as shown below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims remaining after amendment		Highest number previously paid for	Number Extra	Additional Fee
Total Claims	77	Minus	75 *	2	\$ 36
Independent Claims	6	Minus	6 **	0	\$ 0
Multiple Dependent Claims, if any. If not previously paid, \$270.					\$
Total additional fee for this amendment					= \$ 36

* If less than 20, enter 20.

** If less than 3, enter 3.

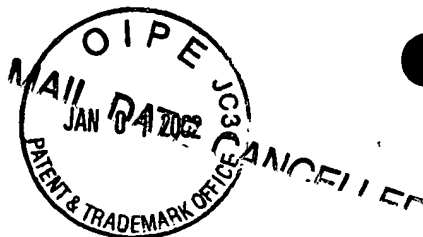
Please charge any fees which may be required (except the issue fee), including any fees due in excess of the fees calculated above, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-0627.

By

Andrew G. Iszwan, Esq.
Reg. No. 40,028
(609) 951-2533**Certificate of First Class Mailing**

I hereby certify that this correspondence, together with each of the documents referred to herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on or before October 29, 2001.

Bill M. Thompson



Ref.: NECI1069

#31X
1/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: M. SAKAGUCHI et al. Date: October 29, 2001

Serial No.: 09/721,694 Group Art Unit: 2185

Filed: November 27, 2000 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: SURFACE PLASMON-ENHANCED READ/WRITE HEADS
FOR OPTICAL DATA STORAGE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

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Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 12-22 with the following:

As discussed in detail in U.S. Patent No. 5,973,316 to Ebbesen et al., U.S.

Patent No. 6,040,936 to Kim et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,052,238 to Ebbesen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,236,033 to Ebbesen et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,285,020 to Kim et al. (each of these patents being incorporated herein by this reference), light transmission through one or more subwavelength-diameter apertures provided in a thin metal (i.e. conductive and opaque in the wavelength of interest) film can be greatly enhanced by arranging the apertures in a periodic array and/or by providing a periodic surface topography on the metal film (surface features such as dimples or protrusions) in conjunction with the aperture(s). This enhancement,